



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

June 14, 2012

**Los Angeles County
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TO: Each Supervisor
FROM: *FOR* Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

**SUBJECT: PILOT PROJECT AT LAC+USC OUTPATIENT
DEPARTMENT**

Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

Hal F. Yee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.
Deputy Director, Strategic Planning

We are planning to start a three-month pilot project at LAC+USC's Outpatient Department (OPD) which would involve removing the x-ray and metal detector equipment at entrances. Contract security guard staff presently manning this equipment would be reassigned to a security detail walking the halls of the OPD providing a less intrusive security presence, while still maintaining an appropriate level of security.

Removing the detectors will convey a more patient-friendly atmosphere to the public, which I believe is more appropriate for a patient care setting. At the same time, this is an important patient retention strategy for the changes taking place in the health care marketplace. We are coordinating this pilot with the Sheriff's Department (SD) and have also apprised employee representatives. We plan to institute the pilot project at LAC+USC's OPD in July 2012.

After completion of this pilot, my staff will make an assessment with the SD to determine if metal detectors at other DHS locations will be removed in the future.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or your staff may call Gregory Polk, Administrative Deputy at (213) 240-8124.

MHK:st

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Captain Charles Stringham

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*To ensure access to high-quality,
patient-centered, cost-effective
health care to Los Angeles County
residents through direct services at
DHS facilities and through
collaboration with community and
university partners.*

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